

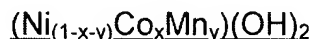
U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/003,916
Amendment Dated March 22, 2005
In Response to Office Action Dated December 27, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) Spherical particles of high density cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide that are free of non-spherical particles of the same; wherein said cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide is represented by the formula:



wherein $1/10 \leq x \leq 1/3$ and $1/20 \leq y \leq 1/3$; and

wherein said particles have with a tapping density of 1.5 g/cc or greater and a mean particle size in the range of 5-20 μm .

Claim 2-4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (new currently amended) Spherical particles of high density cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide that are free of non-spherical particles of the same, wherein said particles have with a tapping density of 1.5 g/cc or greater and a mean particle size in the range of 5-20 μm , wherein said cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide is represented by the formula:

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wherein $1/10 \leq x \leq 1/3$ and $1/20 \leq y \leq 1/3$;

prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

continuously supplying an aqueous solution of a nickel salt which contains a cobalt salt and a manganese salt of a complexing agent and an alkali metal hydroxide into a reactor either in an inert gas atmosphere or in the presence of a reducing agent; continuously growing crystals of said particles; and continuously removing crystals of said particles from said reactor.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 5, wherein said reducing agent is hydrazine.